

## SCHOOL CLOSURE, CONSOLIDATION OR RECONFIGURATION

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**POLICY**

The Board of Education believes that one of its most significant responsibilities is to provide school facilities throughout the Qualicum School District that will best meet the needs of all students. As a matter of general principle, the Board believes that students should have the opportunity to attend a school as close to their homes as possible. The Board of Education also recognizes that the number, location and configuration of these schools must be considered in the broad context of educational programming needs of students and Board responsibility for stewardship of available resources.

The Board of Education recognizes that fluctuating student enrollment patterns may necessitate the closure, consolidation, or reconfiguration of district schools. Such a decision may be considered when an analysis indicates that school closure, consolidation, or reconfiguration is warranted from an educational, demographic or fiscal perspective.

The intent of any proposed closure, consolidation, or reconfiguration of district schools is to ensure that these facilities are used as effectively as possible in order that educational resources are focused on programs and services that support student learning.

The Board is keenly aware that schools and their students are an integral part of the community and that any potential closure, consolidation, or reconfiguration of schools is likely to be a matter of considerable public concern. In recognition of this fact, the Board will engage in consultation with its partner groups and the broader community as soon as a school is considered for closure, consolidation or reconfiguration.

**Definitions:**

*Permanent School Closure* means the closing, for a period exceeding twelve months, of a school building used for the purposes of providing an educational program to students. Closures for the purposes of effecting repairs, renovations or additions with the intent of re-opening the building upon completion shall not be deemed to be permanent.

*Consolidation* means the bringing together of two or more existing schools at a single site with the intent of closing or repurposing some or all of the remaining buildings.

*Reconfiguration* means the reorganization of the existing grade structures of schools in the district.

**References:**

- *School Act* (Sections 22, 65, 73, 85, 100)
- *School Opening and Closure Ministerial Order* (M194/08)
- *Administrative Procedure: School Closure, Consolidation or Reconfiguration*